

BRFSS Brief

Number 1811

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Women, 2017

Introduction and Key Findings

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in New York State (NYS). Each year, approximately 15,750 women in NYS are newly diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 2,550 die from the disease.¹ Risk of breast cancer increases with age and varies across racial groups. White women are more likely than black women to be diagnosed with breast cancer, but are less likely to have breast cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage. Among women with breast cancer, black women are more likely than white women to die from the disease.²

Screening for breast cancer can increase the likelihood of identifying cancer at an early stage when treatment is most successful. Women aged 50 to 74 years should be screened with a mammogram every two years. Women aged 40 to 49 years, those with a family history or other risk factors for breast cancer, and those who have any symptoms or changes in their breasts should talk to their health care provider about what screening schedule is right for them.³ Although breast cancer screening recommendations may vary between organizations, each woman should be aware of her personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with her health care provider, when to start screening.

NYS is close to achieving the Healthy People 2020 objective of 81.1% of women aged 50 to 74 receiving breast cancer screening every two years, with 80.3% of NYS women aged 50 to 74 indicating that they received a mammogram within the past two years (Figure 1).⁴ However, some subpopulations are less likely to be screened. In NYS, women aged 50 to 74 years without a regular health care provider are significantly less likely to have received a mammogram within the past two years (49.9%) compared to women aged 50 to 74 years with a regular health care provider (82.3%). Women aged 50 to 74 years without health insurance are less likely to have received a mammogram within the past two years (70.1%) compared to women aged 50 to 74 years with health insurance (80.9%), although this difference was not statistically significant (Figure 2). Of NYS women aged 50 to 74 who have not received a mammogram within the past two years, 93.3% (an estimated 459,000 women) were insured and 87.4% (an estimated 421,000 women) had a regular health care provider (data not shown). To further increase breast cancer screening rates in New York, there is a need to sustain programs that provide screening to those without health insurance and enhance state and local efforts to promote screening and better engage populations that have access to health care.

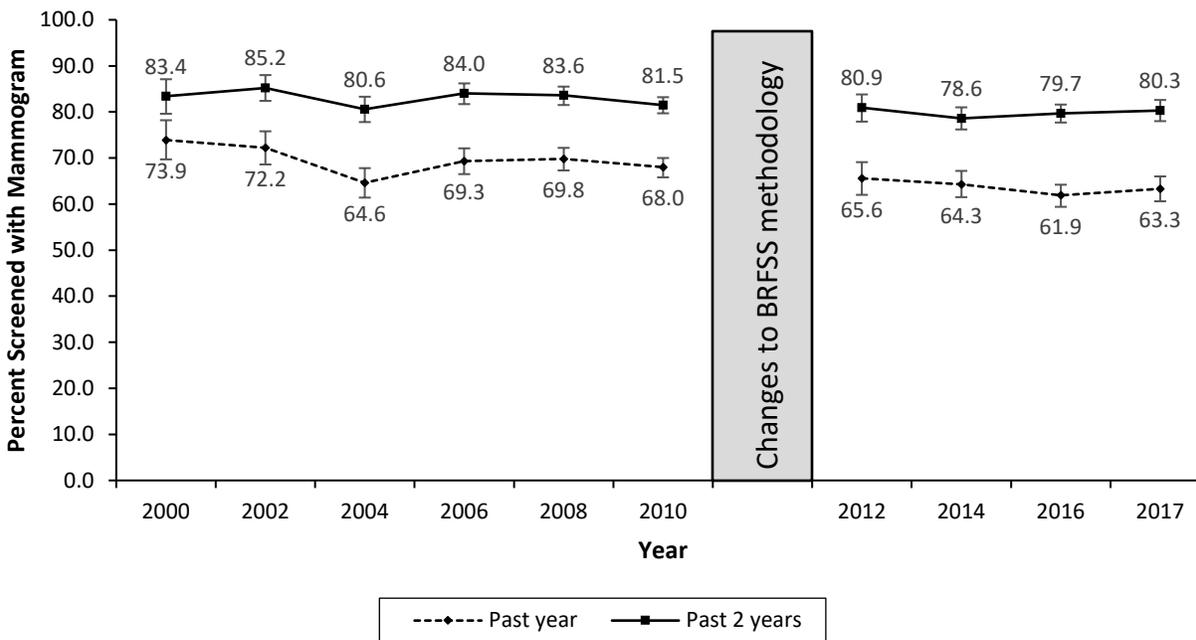
BRFSS Questions

1. A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer. Have you ever had a mammogram?

[If “yes”]

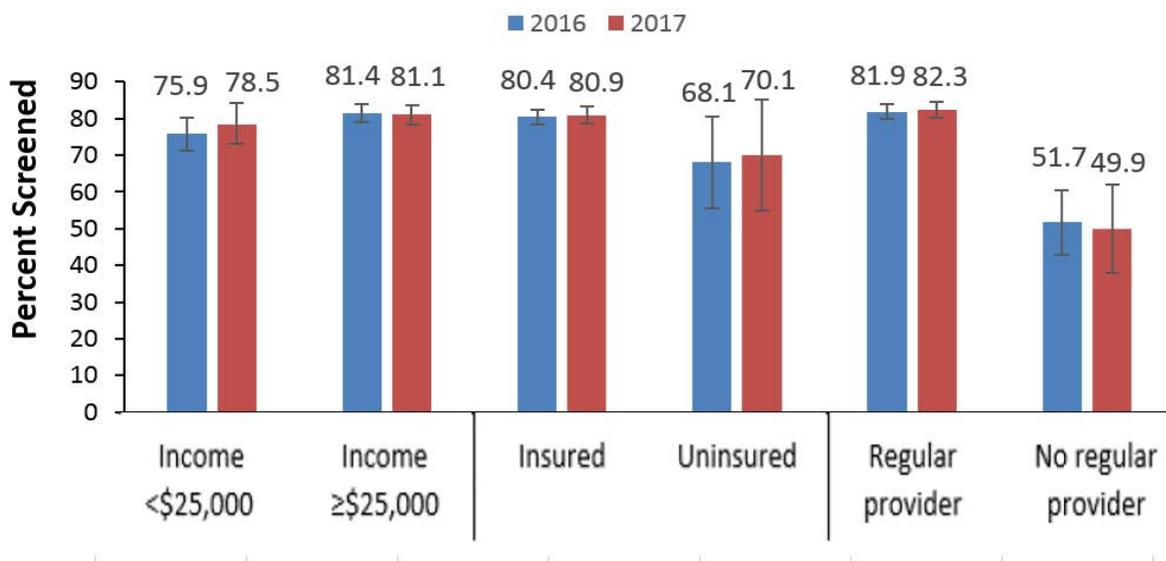
2. How long has it been since you had your last mammogram?

Figure 1. History of mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) among New York State women aged 50 to 74 years, by BRFSS survey year from 2000 to 2017



*Data from 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2017 are not comparable to prior years because of changes to the BRFSS methods in 2011. See the following link for more information on these changes: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6122a3.htm?s_cid=mm6122a3_w
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 2. Percent screened by mammography within the past 2 years among New York State women aged 50 to 74 years by income, insurance and regular health care provider status, BRFSS 2016 and 2017 survey years



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

History of mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) among New York State women aged 50 to 74 years, by selected characteristics, BRFSS 2017 survey

	Estimated population size ^a	Mammogram history					
		Ever		Within past year		Within past 2 years	
		% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b
Total NYS [N=3,081]	3,032	97.4	96.6-98.3	63.3	60.7-66.0	80.3	78.0-82.6
Age Group							
50-64	2,068	97.2	96.2-98.3	61.5	58.1-64.9	78.7	75.7-81.7
65-74	965	97.8	96.5-99.2	67.3	63.3-71.3	83.8	80.8-86.8
Race/Ethnicity							
White non-Hispanic	1,875	98.0	97.1-98.9	63.6	60.7-66.6	79.9	77.4-82.4
Black non-Hispanic	466	96.4	93.1-99.6	59.5	51.3-67.7	82.5	76.5-88.6
Hispanic	399	95.6	92.9-98.3	69.1	61.9-76.3	86.1	81.2-91.1
Other non-Hispanic	208	97.5	94.1-100.0	54.5	38.0-71.1	67.8	51.0-84.7
Annual household income							
< \$25,000	707	97.1	95.5-98.7	58.2	52.1-64.2	78.5	73.0-84.0
\$25,000 - <\$50,000	581	96.0	93.3-98.7	61.8	55.1-68.5	77.6	71.9-83.2
≥ \$50,000	1,291	98.6	97.6-99.5	65.7	62.1-69.3	82.5	79.7-85.4
Missing ^c	453	96.0	93.0-98.9	66.1	58.5-73.7	79.4	72.6-86.3
Educational attainment							
Less than high school	392	93.1	88.7-97.6	63.8	55.0-72.6	83.8	77.9-89.7
High school or GED	772	98.5	97.5-99.5	57.8	51.6-64.1	74.9	69.0-80.9
Some post-high school	860	96.6	94.7-98.5	63.6	58.6-68.6	80.6	76.4-84.9
College graduate	1,000	98.7	97.9-99.5	66.9	63.4-70.5	82.8	80.0-85.6
Primary health care coverage							
Private insurance	1,442	97.7	96.6-98.7	63.6	59.9-67.3	79.9	76.8-83.1
Medicare	625	98.6	97.6-99.5	62.9	58.0-67.8	81.3	77.3-85.2
Medicaid	278	96.4	92.6-100.0	57.8	49.4-66.2	82.5	76.5-88.4
Other insurance	86	97.7	95.1-100.0	81.3	72.3-90.3	88.6	81.1-96.0
No insurance	148	90.0	82.0-97.9	64.0	49.0-79.0	70.1	55.0-85.2
Regular health care provider							
Yes	2,844	98.3	97.6-98.9	65.1	62.4-67.8	82.3	80.1-84.5
No	164	86.2	77.7-94.8	37.0	25.2-48.9	49.9	37.8-62.1
Disability^d							
Yes	847	97.2	95.5-98.9	59.8	54.8-64.8	82.5	78.8-86.1
No	2,026	97.5	96.5-98.5	64.9	61.7-68.1	79.5	76.6-82.3
Residence							
New York City (NYC)	1,225	96.2	94.4-98.0	60.7	55.7-65.6	79.2	74.7-83.6
NYS excluding NYC	1,808	98.2	97.4-99.0	65.0	62.1-68.0	81.0	78.6-83.5

^a Estimated population size based on weighted frequencies from BRFSS, in thousands. Excludes individuals with missing data on each characteristic of interest.

^b %=Percentage; 95% CI=Confidence Interval. Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

^c "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^d Based on report of at least one of the following disabilities: cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living.

References

1. Cancer Incidence and Mortality for New York State, 2011-2015. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised Mar. 2018. Available at <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1rnys.htm>
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3. What Is Breast Cancer Screening? Center for Disease Control and Prevention, updated Jun. 2018. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/screening.htm
4. HealthyPeople.gov, 2020 Topics and Objectives: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, updated Jul. 2018. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=5>

Program Contributions

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research
Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control

Order Information

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